

**REMARKS**

Claims 13, 17, 21-26 and 29-30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 13 and 25 are amended and claims 15, 19, 27, 28, 31 and 32 are canceled. Support for the amendments to the claims may be found, for example, in the original claims, specification and drawings. No new matter is added. In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

**I. Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and 103**

The Office Action rejects claims 13, 21 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,117,231 to Fusegawa et al. ("Fusegawa"); rejects claims 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over Fusegawa in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,077,726 by Pietsch et al. ("Pietsch"); and rejects claims 13, 25, 26 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,200,384 to Kishida et al. ("Kishida"), or in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as having been obvious over Kishida in view of Fusegawa.<sup>1</sup> By this Amendment, independent claims 13 and 25 are amended to incorporate the allowable subject matters of claims 15 and 27, respectively, and claims 15 and 27 are canceled, thereby rendering the rejections moot. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

**II. Conclusion**

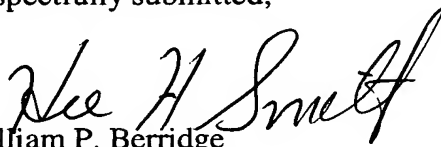
In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are earnestly solicited.

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<sup>1</sup> The Office Action rejects claims 13, 25, 26 and 29-32 "under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Kishida (US Patent No. 6,200,384) in view of Fusegawa (US Patent No. 6,117,231)." The Examiner clarified in a telephone conference with Applicants' representative on February 1, 2008, that as to the §102(b) rejection, the claims are rejected as being anticipated by Kishida alone.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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